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DEPT FOR INM
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CUSTOMS FOR FOREIGN OPERATIONS STAFF

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, CO
SUBJECT: MONTHLY REPORT OF US-FUNDED NARCOTICS CONTROL PROJECTS IN COLOMBIA - JULY 1982

1. SUMMARY. DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE MONTH, NAU DIRECTOR CAESAR P. BERNAL WAS ON R&R. ALBERT W. CARPENTER, INM TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR, SPENT THE MAJORITY OF THE MONTH IN BOGOTA, REVIEWING THE STATUS OF THE COMMODITY PROCUREMENTS FOR ALL PROJECTS AND ADVISING/CHECKING ON THE INSTALLATION OF THESE COMMODITIES. DURING JULY, THE COMBINED COLOMBIAN ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES NETTED 196 METRIC TONS OF BULK MARIHUANA, 17 KILOS OF COCAINE HCL, AND OVER TWO-MILLION DOSAGE UNITS OF METHAQUALONE. THEY DESTROYED 105,350 MARIHUANA PLANTS, OVER TWO-MILLION COCA BUSHES, AND 13 CLANDESTINE LABS, WHILE MAKING 109 NARCOTICS ARRESTS. END OF SUMMARY.

2. NATIONAL POLICE PROJECT - 311001-0109

A. GENERAL: LTC. JAVIER ARBELAEZ, OVERALL SPECIAL ANTINARCOTICS UNIT (SANU) COMMANDER, AND MAJOR TRUJILLO, NORTH COAST COMMANDER, HAVE COMPLETED THEIR TOURS AND WILL BE LEAVING FOR ONWARD ASSIGNMENT WITHIN THE NATIONAL POLICE. TRUJILLO IS TO BE REPLACED BY MAJOR ENRIQUE ESCOBAR LELION; ARBELAEZ' SUCCESSOR HAS NOT YET BEEN CONFIRMED. BOTH OFFICERS WILL BE SORELY MISSED, BUT EMBASSY HAS EVERY CONFIDENCE THEIR REPLACEMENTS WILL BE OF THE SAME HIGH CALIBER.

ALBERT W. CARPENTER PROVIDED EXCELLENT AND MUCH-NEEDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE AREA OF RADIO COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND INSTALLATIONS DURING HIS EXTENDED TDY TO COLOMBIA.

B. PROGRESS TOWARD OBJECTIVES: MR. AROS, IN THE COMPANY OF NATIONAL POLICE (NP) COUNTERPARTS, MADE IN-DEPTH FIELD VISITS TO SANU SITES IN NARINO, VALLE, CAUCA AND PUTUMAYO, AND ACCOMPANIED SANU PERSONNEL ON AIR-SUPPORTED ERADICATION MISSIONS UTILIZING OAG HELICOPTERS WHICH WERE CONDUCTED IN THE LLANOS FROM JULY 26 TO AUGUST 1. A COPY OF HIS DETAILED TRIP REPORT HAS BEEN POUCHED TO INM. ALL PROJECT OBJECTIVES CONTINUE TO BE MET.

C. PROGRESS IN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION: DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZED LOCAL PURCHASE OF FIELD EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN COMPLETED, WITH THE EXCEPTIONS OF SOME SANUS ITEMS HELD UP OWING TO A TEMPORARY MATERIAL SHORTAGE. ALL SUPPORTING PURCHASE DOCUMENTATION WILL BE POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT. A DRAFT OF REVISION 8 TO MINDEF PRO/AG, WHICH WOULD OBLIGATE FY 1982 INC FUNDS, WAS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR APPROVAL. EMBASSY JUDGES IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT REVISION BE SIGNED BY DEFMIN CANACHO LEYVA PRIOR TO AUGUST 7, OTHERWISE WE MAY SEE THE NEW DEFMIN TAKE AN ADAMANT STAND IN REGARDS TO APPORTIONMENT OF THE FUNDS WITHIN THE BRANCHES. PURSUANT TO NAU REQUEST, SANU COMMAND HEADQUARTERS WILL SUBMIT A WRITTEN STUDY RELATING TO FUTURE NEED FOR CONTINUING PROVISION OF C-RATIONS, AS BASED ALTERNATIVELY ON THE PERMANENT AVAILABILITY OF NO HELICOPTERS, TWO HELICOPTERS OR FIVE HELICOPTERS.

D. ACCOMPLISHMENTS: THE NP SEIZED 179 METRIC TONS OF BULK MARIHUANA, 16.5 KILOS OF COCAINE HYDROCHLORIDE AND OVER TWO-MILLION DOSAGE UNITS OF METHAQUALONE. THEY DESTROYED 2,002,975 COCA SHRUBS AND 105,350 MARIHUANA PLANTS, 13 COCA LABS AND EFFECTED 106 ARRESTS.

E. PROBLEMS: NONE OF MAJOR CONSEQUENCE.

F. FUTURE PROSPECTS: NO CHANGE.

3. OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (OAG) PROJECT - 311001-0104

A. GENERAL: THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR JUDICIAL POLICE, DR. JORGE PENEN, HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO SHARE THE OAG'S AVIATION RESOURCES WITH THE NATIONAL POLICE. AS MENTIONED IN JUNE'S REPORT, RELATIONS BETWEEN THE NATIONAL POLICE AND THE OAG HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY

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MUTUAL RESENTMENT AND DISTRUST. THE NP HAD REQUESTED IN WRITING THAT THE OAG PROVIDE AIR SUPPORT FOR A PLANNED NP ANTINARCOTICS OPERATION IN THE LLANOS. DR. PENEN FOUND EVERY EXCUSE NOT TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUEST. SHORTLY AFTER THE NAU DIRECTOR RETURNED FROM R&R ON JULY 15, HE AND THE DCM PAID A VISIT TO DR. GONZALEZ CHARRY, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. THE EMBOFFS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS IN NARCOTICS CONTROL AND OBTAINED HIS COMMITMENT TO COORDINATE WITH THE NP BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH TO SUPPORT THE SANU. THE MEETING WAS SUCCESSFUL SINCE THE OAG ONCE AGAIN PROVIDED THE NECESSARY AIR SUPPORT TO THE SANU DURING AN OPERATION IN THE LLANOS THAT COMMENCED ON JULY 26.

B. PROGRESS TOWARD OBJECTIVES: OBJECTIVES ARE BEING MET.

C. PROGRESS IN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION: PRIOR TO THE RECALCITRANCE OF DR. PENEN, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT WAS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY. AFTER A HIATUS OF ABOUT FOUR WEEKS, IMPLEMENTATION HAS BEGUN ONCE AGAIN.

D. ACCOMPLISHMENTS. NO ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR JULY WERE REPORTED BY THE OAG.

E. PROBLEMS: DISCUSSED IN PARAGRAPH A, ABOVE.

F. FUTURE PROSPECTS: NO CHANGE.

4. COLOMBIAN AIR FORCE (FAC) PROJECT - 311001-0107

A. GENERAL: FAC SUPPORT FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES PICKED UP SIGNIFICANTLY DURING JULY. IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING AIR SUPPORT FOR ANTINARCOTICS OPERATIONS, THE FAC FURNISHED AIR LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR THE OAG'S AIR GROUP AND THE SANU, BOTH IN THE LLANOS AND BETWEEN FORT LAUDERDALE AND BOGOTA. THE FAC HAS YET TO REFUSE A REQUEST BY THE EMBASSY TO PROVIDE AERO SERVICES FOR VISITORS FROM WASHINGTON, D.C.

B. PROGRESS TOWARD OBJECTIVES: OBJECTIVES ARE BEING MET.

C. PROGRESS IN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION: THE PROJECT WITH THE FAC, IN TERMS OF ASSISTING THE FORCE TO RESTORE ITS HELICOPTER FLEET, IS OVER 90 PERCENT COMPLETE. THE FAC HAS LIQUIDATED ALL BUT USD 5,000 OF THE USD 200,000 THAT HAD BEEN ADVANCED TO THE FAC'S ACCOUNT IN FORT LAUDERDALE. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ADVANCES, SO THERE WILL BE NONE. A PA C WAS ISSUED IN THE AMOUNT OF USD 76,000 TO PROCURE PORTABLE AIRCRAFT REFUELING EQUIPMENT FOR THE FAC.

D. ACCOMPLISHMENTS: THE FAC CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES OF COLOMBIA'S ENFORCEMENT UNITS AND TO CONDUCT ANTINARCOTICS RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS. ALSO, THE FAC HAS SAVED THE USG AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF MONEY SINCE IT HAS BEEN PROVIDING AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES FOR THE NATIONAL POLICE BETWEEN FORT LAUDERDALE AND BOGOTA.

E. PROBLEMS: THE FAC'S MEDIUM HELICOPTER PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED TO BARRANQUILLA TO SUPPORT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL POLICE'S SANU IN THE NORTH COAST AREA HAS NOT BEEN USED ADEQUATELY. THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE SANU IN THAT AREA REPORTED THAT HE HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO USE THE HELICOPTER BECAUSE THE FAC'S CREW TENDS TO DIRECT THE OPERATION EACH TIME IT PROVIDES AIR SUPPORT. NEVERTHELESS, DURING THE LAST TEN DAYS OF JULY, TWO MEDIUM FAC HELICOPTERS WERE ASSIGNED TO SUPPORT A SANU-CONDUCTED OPERATION ON THE NORTH COAST. THE EMBASSY HAS NOT YET RECEIVED THE RESULTS OF THAT OPERATION, BUT IT IS KNOWN THAT THE OPERATION WAS PERFORMED.

THE FAC HELICOPTER THAT WAS TO BE ASSIGNED TO THE FAC BASE AT APIAY FOR SUPPORTING THE SANU IN THE LLANOS DID NOT MATERIALIZE. A FOLLOW-UP BY EMBOFFS RESULTED IN TWO FAC HELICOPTERS BEING ASSIGNED TO APIAY, AND THEY ARE PROVIDING AIR SUPPORT AS REQUIRED.

F. FUTURE PROSPECTS: NO PROJECT WITH THE FAC IS CONTEMPLATED WITH FY 1982 FUNDS, BUT THE FAC WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO PROVIDE AIR SUPPORT FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL WHEN REQUESTED.

5. COLOMBIAN NAVY PROJECT - 311001-0107

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A. GENERAL: WITH THE LIFTING OF THE STATE OF SIEGE, EXTRAORDINARY SEIZING POWERS (DECREES 2144 AND 402) WERE REMOVED FROM THE GOVERNORS OF COLOMBIA'S DEPARTMENTS (STATES) AND THE ARMED FORCES THAT ASSIST IN NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS. A MOVE IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY BY THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE TO PASS A BILL WHICH WILL RECOUP THE AUTHORITY LOST BY THE NEGATION OF THESE DECREES. THE EXTENT OF THE AFFECT THIS CHANGE WILL HAVE ON THE NAVY'S NARCOTICS SEIZURES IS UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER, IT IS DOUBTFUL IT WILL BE SIGNIFICANT.

B. PROGRESS TOWARD OBJECTIVES: THE PROCUREMENT OF THE 105-FOOT BOAT IS ON SCHEDULE AND A PRELIMINARY INSPECTION VISIT IS PLANNED SEPTEMBER 1 TO SWIFTSHIPS IN MORGAN CITY, LOUISANA. THE CUSTOMS TELEX INSTALLATION IS PENDING CONFIRMATION BY TELECOM THAT ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED SO THAT THE EMBASSY CAN BEGIN PAYMENT.

C. PROGRESS IN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION: NOTHING TO REPORT.

D. ACCOMPLISHMENTS: NONE.

E. PROBLEMS: NONE.

F. FUTURE PROSPECTS: NO CHANGE.

6. COLOMBIAN ARMY PROJECT - 311001-0107

A. GENERAL: NO CHANGE IN THE STATUS OF THIS PROJECT.

7. COLOMBIAN CUSTOMS - 311001-0105

A. GENERAL: WITH THE FORTHCOMING CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT ON AUGUST 7, IT IS UNKNOWN WHO WILL REPLACE DR. RAFAEL POVEDA ALFONSO AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CUSTOMS. THE INM-PROVIDED 105-FOOT PATROL BOAT, OLAYA HERRERA, UNDERWENT FACTORY WARRANTY WORK AND WILL BE PLACED IN DRY DOCK FOR HULL CLEANING THE FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST.

B. PROGRESS TOWARD OBJECTIVES: PROJECT OBJECTIVES CONTINUE TO BE MET.

C. PROGRESS IN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION: IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL POLICE, REPEATER SITES FOR TELECOM EQUIPMENT WERE SELECTED. CUSTOMS WILL DEFRAY COSTS FOR PURCHASE OF HUTS FOR HOUSING REPEATER TRANSCEIVER UNITS AND DUPLEXERS WHICH WERE PROVIDED UNDER PASC 3113-15133. WARRANTY MAINTENANCE ON THE ENGINES OF THE 105-FOOT USG-PROVIDED PATROL BOAT WAS PERFORMED BY MANUFACTORY REPRESENTATIVE. THE TURBOCHARGER BLADES WERE REPLACED IN THE PORT PROPULSION UNIT AND THE ENGINES WERE TUNED. COMPRESSION AND FUEL FLOW TESTS PROVED THE ENGINES TO BE IN EXCELLENT CONDITION.

D. ACCOMPLISHMENTS: DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD CUSTOMS MADE THREE SEPARATE SEIZURES RESULTING IN 16.5 METRIC TONS OF MARIHUANA AND 198 GRAMS OF COCAINE HCL. THEY ALSO MADE ONE ARREST.

E. PROBLEMS: WITH THE EXPECTED CHANGES IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (OF WHICH GOC CUSTOMS IS AN ORGANIZATIONAL PART), IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE CUSTOMS PRO/AG OBLIGATING THE FY 1982 FUNDS BE SIGNED BEFORE AUGUST 7.

F. FUTURE PROSPECTS: NO CHANGE.

8. MINISTRY OF JUSTICE PROJECT - 311001-0111

A. GENERAL: BECAUSE THE TURBAY ADMINISTRATION WAS WINDING DOWN DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY RELATED TO THIS PROJECT. TOY TECHNICIAN CARPENTER (PREVIOUS PROJECT MANAGER) WILL BE DISCUSSING MINJUS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH INM FOR GUIDANCE ON EMBASSY COURSE OF ACTION. BOYATT